

Amendments to the Specifications:

Please replace the abstract (paragraphs 0129 and 0130) with the following paragraph:

[0129] The method and system of the present invention enables Internet businesses to conduct real-time, online experiments on a sample of transactions to determine marketplace sensitivities and reveal the relative stability (or instability) of the networked market within which the business operates. Analysis of the results of the experiments reveal optimal values of key market decision variables such as price, content of banner ads, promotion levels, quantity discount schemes, etc. The real-time translation of an optimal value for a key variable to the entire market can be done. The experiments may be automatically conducted ~~on an on-going basis~~ continually, or may be conducted ~~on a periodic basis~~ periodically. The method and system of the present invention preferably allow users to modify the nature of the experiment and the propagation of optimal values. The method and system of the current invention can be used for a pure diagnostic purpose or to automate the setting of key market variables.

~~[0130] The dynamic experimentation used by the inventive system reveals the relative stability (or instability) of the networked market within which the business operates. The translation of an optimal value for a key variable (for example, price) to the entire market can be done on a real time basis.~~